

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) The reagent supply system of claim 8 wherein the loading tray includes a motorized rake adapted to automatically position the containers beneath the linear shuttle.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The reagent supply system of claim 8 having first and second concentric reagent carousels, the first carousel being inwards of the second carousel, the linear shuttle adapted to move reagent containers between the first and second concentric reagent carousels.

5. (original) The reagent supply system of claim 4 further including a first reagent container transfer device proximate the second concentric reagent carousel to transfer reagent containers from the second concentric reagent carousel to a reagent preparation station.

6. (original) The reagent supply system of claim 4 further including a second reagent container transfer device proximate the second concentric reagent carousel to transfer reagent containers from the second concentric reagent carousel to a motorized belt shuttle.

7. (previously presented) An automatic chemical analyzer comprising the reagent supply system of claim 8 and further comprising a reaction carousel having cuvette ports formed therein to receive a plurality of reaction cuvettes, and reagent aspiration and

dispense arms to aspirate reagents from reagent containers in the reagent carousel and in the reagent server and to dispense reagents into the reaction cuvettes.

8. (previously presented) A random access reagent container or vial container supply system comprising:

- a reagent container or a vial container loading tray (29);
- at least one carousel (26A);
- at least one storage tray (27) positioned between the loading tray (29) and the carousel (26A); and,
- a bi-directional linear shuttle (72) having means for removing reagent containers (30) or vial containers (30A) from the loading tray, and having means for placing reagent containers or vial containers into the carousel.

9. (previously presented) The random access reagent container or vial container supply system of claim 8 wherein said shuttle further comprises means for removing reagent containers from the loading tray and placing containers into the storage tray.